

12-1978

YPSILANTI GLEANINGS

PAST SCENES and OLDTIMES

YPSILANTI HISTORICAL SOCIETY~ PUBLICATION~



Ypsilanti Historical Museum
~ 220 N. Huron Street ~

December 1978

REMEMBERANCE OF THINGS PAST -- FOSTER FLETCHER
FLORENCE BABBITT AND THE BABBITT HOUSE -- ARTHUR J. HOWARD

December 1978

GLEANINGS

The first dinner meeting of the Ypsilanti Historical Society was an unequalled success. One hundred and sixty-two adults and eight youngsters gathered at five o'clock on Sunday October 15th in the dining room of the First Baptist Church. The most successful affair in the eighteen years since the Society was founded. It was a warm friendly meeting with old friends socializing before being served the delicious dinner of chicken and 'dumplins' and all the fixings plus homemade apple pie!

The speakers of the evening, Foster L. Fletcher and Arthur J. Howard were appreciately listened to and at the completion of their speeches questioned by the audience. Tapes were made of both presentations.

The meeting was open to the public as well as to Society members. Foster spoke of Ypsilanti in the early years of this century while Arthur's topic was the early meat markets of Ypsilanti.

For those members who were unable to attend our very first dinner meeting Foster's talk is presented in full. As his contribution to GLEANINGS Arthur sent in his remembrances of Florence Babbitt. Those who wish to do so may hear both tapes at the Museum during Archival hours.

We plan to make this so very successful dinner meeting an annual affair.

'REMEMBRANCE OF THINGS PAST'

by Foster L. Fletcher

I have been accused of remembering incidents, events and scenes before I was born in 1897.

I do remember an uncle, William Scotney, bringing souvenirs in 1901 from the Pan-American Exposition in Buffalo, New York. It was September 6th of that year that President McKinley was shot-shot by a harmless looking little man with an arm in a sling and a bandaged hand as though injured. The few Security Guards in those days - you may remember, President Lincoln had only one guard the night he was shot - and McKinley's guards gave their attention to a man who looked suspicious and a trouble maker. So they passed the little man with his arm in a sling with hardly a glance. Leon Czolgosz, the unsuspected assassin, had no trouble coming face to face with the President. As the President put out his hand, the assassin moved his bandaged hand forward and shot the President in the stomach, or as Dr. Ray Yoder liked to say, in the level of the umbilicus.

After that World shaking event, we spent hours, not tracking down the assassin, but searching through the Sears-Roebuck Catalogue to find the picture of a pistol small enough

to fit in the palm of a man's hand. The pistol was there alright and many others.

In the winter of 1910, two robbers broke into Brabb Jewelry Store at 110 W. Congress which is the location of the Moray Jewelers today. The two robbers, on foot of course, with their loot went over to the Depot to catch an early train to Detroit. In those days, there were fourteen passenger trains that stopped in Ypsilanti. The Station Master in the Depot was Henry C. Minor, telegrapher, dispatcher, ticket seller, a very able and industrious man. Minor knew there was something wrong with this pair and had them stand in a corner while he made a phone call to the Police. Milo Gage was the Marshall and never had more than two men to help him. As Minor went to the phone he turned his back to the robbers and they immediately shot him and ran from the station. Minor, although fatality wounded managed to get over to East Cross Street, brace himself against a telephone and shot at the fleeing robbers. He hit one, wounded him severly, but they managed to get away and Minor simply slumped to the ground and bled to death. Later, the robbers were caught in Detroit largely because the wounded one had to have surgical attention.

In the station on that early morning was Thomas O'Brian, a thirteen year old boy there to pick up his morning papers as they were thrown off the Blind Baggage. But with the shooting, Tom got down under the passenger benches never having been in such a situation. He recounted the episode many times during the rest of his life.

Charles Edward King, Sr. was born September 12 1823 in London, England. The son of George R. and Maria Howell King and came with his parents to Ypsilanti in 1837 where his father opened a Grocery Store on E. Congress as it was called. In 1842, George R. King built the three story brick building at the SW corner of Congress Street and S. Huron. He established his grocery there which continued as an unusual grocery for the next one hundred years under the ownership of the King's son, the grandson, plus the addition of John Lamb, and succeeded by his son, Charles King Lamb.

Let us go on up Congress Street. Next door was the Smith Brothers Drug Store and then the Joseph King Shoe Store - no relation to Charles King - and every summer that shoe store, with every shoe sale, gave a shoebox of fireworks. Even though I was a barefoot boy with cheek all summer except on Sundays, in a family of four boys, somebody always needed a pair of shoes.

Further west was the Witmire Saloon and then the Clark Bakery, 107-109 W. Congress Street. James Clark was born December 23 1869 on Prince Edward Island - came to Ypsilanti about 1900 as a Baker.

In 1911, his wife stricken with a terminal illness, required constant nursing care. The nurse planned on be-

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Howard Market 217

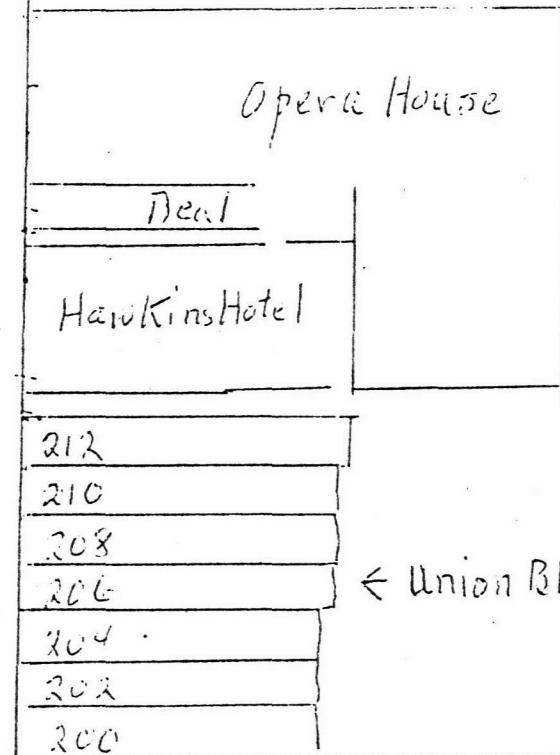
Saloon
201

Bank
133

Bakery 109
107

King Lamb
Grocery

Congress Street



Washington Street

Michigan Avenue

118 Samson

110 Jeweler

104 Smith

Yardley
LeFrére

Huron Street

coming the second Mrs. Clark when the demise occurred in 1912 but Clark had other ideas which did not include the nurse.

Soon wives and husbands of prominent people began receiving anonymous letters saying: "Did you know your husband, or wife, was in Recreation Park last night with so and so...?" Only the letters were much more lurid, in detail.

Soon an Ex-Mayor, a high ranking Educator, a well known Industrialist and other prominent men left town...It was always men, never any of the women involved. Use of the mails was a Federal Offense, and some way or other, the Nurse was accused of writing those letters. One of the strangest bombs that ever fell on Ypsilanti.

One successful shoe merchant named in the case, later said it all helped his business...women came to buy shoes and many women came just to look at him...The case was heard in Federal Court in Detroit and the morning interurban had defendants sitting on one side of the car and the outraged spouses on the other. It was front page news with pictures for the Detroit papers. Barely mentioned in the local paper. Handwriting experts could not agree and there never was a conviction.

But let us continue on Congress Street. The First National Bank was where the Willoughby Shoe store is at 121 Congress, with Asa Dow the first President. Asa Dow was the man who built the brick mansion where the Ypsilanti Historical Museum is located at 220 N. Huron Street. In 1905 the Bank moved to 133 Congress, the corner of S. Washington and Congress. It was a large three story brick building occupied in the 1890s by Harris Brothers & Co. Grocers with meats and baked goods - also manufacturers of Grape Leaf Baking Powder.

George Harris moved to Detroit in 1899 and D.L. Davis moved into the building with a Grocery and Crockery Store. When the First National Bank bought the building in 1905, Don Louis Davis moved to 200 W. Michigan on the corner with Herb Hopkins as partner.

I do not remember the entrance to any of the places I have mentioned, except one, and it had fascinating swinging doors. I thought it the entrance to the Bank...It was several years later I learned it was the Witmire Saloon.

As you crossed Washington Street, there on the corner is the big three story brick building built in the 1840s by the Larzeleres and housing the Ament Saloon.

Later the Saloon was owned by the Max Brothers. Matt Max and brother Fred were tending bar at the time Jack Johnson, heavyweight Champion 1908-1915, with his automobile cavalcade stopped at the Bar for a drink on their way to Detroit. The road from Detroit to the East edge of Washtenaw County was paved in 1911 and one of the longest paved roads in the Middle West.

Before 1915, there were several shortorder restaurants and five full scale restaurants. The Hawkins House had begun

to decline. There were Boarding Houses such as Patrick Doyles in the middle of the block on South Adams Street, and Oscar Westfall's -unrelated to Jim - on North Huron Street where the Masonic Temple was built in 1909. There were several Boarding Houses nearer the Normal College which had an enrollment of less than 1000 students and no dorms. I have heard from unreliable sources that most of the saloons had free lunches.

There were at least seven Drug Stores. The Frank Smith Drug Store was where the Greene Jewelry is located- or for those of you who may remember, it was next door to Davis & Kishlar Dry Goods.

Frank Smith was an enterprising young man. A graduate of Dartmouth College in 1857 and persuaded to come to Ypsilanti by Dr. F. K. Rexford. The Smiths lived at 7 N. Normal which later became the home of the P.R. Clearys.

On North Huron Street it was Rogers, Weinman & Mathews Drugs & Soda Fountain. Duane Spalsbury Drugs was at 112 Congress and Erastus Samson had a store as early as 1842 in a wooden frame building at 118 where he sold Drugs, Whiskey and Gin. That store was burned out in the great fire of 1851 but rebuilt with brick that same year. Samson was in business in that building until well into the 1890s and then sold to C.W. Rogers who operated a Drug-bookstore at 118 Congress and it became the second location for Rogers, Weinman & Mathews in 1901.

From a clever combination of those three names came the 'Rowima' store on West Cross Street. A favorite spot for Normal Students.

The R.N. Kilians lived on North River Street and had an early Drug Store at 37 East Cross Street for many years. The Weber Drug Store in that location has been owned and operated by Don Wallaker since 1958.

And now if you are still awake and not as H. Allen Smith liked to say: 'Lost in the Horse Latitudes', I would like to have you bring the Union Block into focus in your minds. It is the big three story brick structure on the NW corner of Michigan Ave. and N. Washington Street.

Joseph Sanders was the promoter of this tremendous brick structure. It extends for seven store fronts from 200 W. Michigan through 212. Anne And Gordon Wallace are to be commended for what they are doing in the building at 210 W. Michigan.

Joseph T. Sanders came to Ypsilanti in 1857 from New York State. He worked in a Grocery Store for several years and then in 1868 he joined Clark S. Wortley in buying out S. Hesslein, Clothier.

Their store was on the North side of Congress, and perhaps that business was in the building at 110 Congress which was owned by C.S. Wortley and his heirs for many years. It was in 1873 that Sanders withdrew from the partnership. He became interested in real estate. C.S. Wortley moved the business to 124 W. Michigan.

In 1879 Sanders with others planned and executed the building of the Union Block, the largest structure ever built in downtown Ypsilanti. Three stories high and divided into seven store fronts with Sanders keeping the first two at the Washington Street corner.

He had a men's clothing store there for a decade and then set some kind of record on February 22 1890 by dropping dead in front of his store. In 1888, he built what was known as the pride of south Huron Street at 114 Huron. He did not live long to enjoy this fine home but it was Mrs. Sanders' home until her death in 1933.

When the Union Block was built in 1879, the Greek Revival frame structure known as the Hawkins Tavern was located on that corner and a very fine Tavern it was. Rooms for travelers and stables for the horses. That old handsome building was moved west and in back of the new brick Hawkins House Hotel which was west of the Union Block. The Greek Revival frame building was used as a storehouse and also to stable horses belonging to guests at the new Hawkins House. Sumptuous meals were served in that hotel's elegant dining room. It was the one bright spot on the rough road from Detroit to Chicago. The old ninety nine year old Hawkins House is being remodelled into apartments by Andy Smith and Walter Patchak.

As you may remember, the survey for the Detroit to Chicago Road was begun by the United States Government in 1825 and intended as a military road. The road itself was built largely by each Township and County. No cannon or cavalry ever passed on that road. However, the Glideon Tour of Automobiles in 1909 from Detroit to Denver, came through Ypsilanti, turned on Ballard Street and over to Cross Street and then west instead of following the old Sauk Trail through the Irish Hills.

The last time a horse drawn vehicle came from Detroit to Ypsilanti on that road, was during our Centennial Celebration in 1923. It was a stagecoach with horses driven by Joe Warner. Passengers were Mary Fowler Nissly, Mary Hover, City Nurse and Mrs. R. Clyde Ford.

West beyond the Hawkins House, in 1886 Daniel Lace Quirk headed a group that included F. P. Bogardus and Henry Curtis, they built the beautiful Opera House where many famous people performed. The old poet, James Whitcomb Riley (1849-1916) of 'The Frost is On the Pumpkin' fame read his poetry. James O'Neal (1847-1920), father of Eugene O'Neal, performed on that stage. The acoustics were perfect.

The front part of the building with the domed tower was destroyed by the cyclone in 1893. The tower was not replaced but the building and theatre was restored.

Stephen Dodge, with a jewelry store in 110 Congress was always interested in plays and theatre and promoted and directed many plays prior to 1914 with local people in the casts. Then the big plays from New York which used to stop at the Opera House in Ypsilanti began going to the Whitney

Theatre in Ann Arbor and our Opera House became a place for vaudeville and then moving pictures...with the famous screen vamp-Theda Bara - some of the old timers insisted Theda Bara was born in Ypsilanti, the daughter of a shoe cobbler - but Theda Bara was claimed by many small towns.

Emery Beal's Drug Store was at 224 Congress Street in the front part of the building that housed the beautiful Opera House which lost out to a parking lot. Emery Beal came to Ypsilanti in 1893 after graduating from the University of Michigan. He was succeeded in 1918 by Bruce Haig who moved the business to the corner of Washington Street in the Union Block.

I think two hardware stores had big freight elevators - Lefurge on North Huron Street and Carpenter on Congress - Lefurge was killed when he fell in his elevator shaft - and as the Insurance Companies might ask: "Did he slip or was he pushed?" Perhaps some of you who may have lately been in the Adult Book Store can tell me whether the big old creaking elevator is still there from the days of Wallace & Clarke Furniture and Undertaker and then Clarke & Augustus Furniture.

On North Huron Street in the first block, the Bert Readers opened the Vaudette Theatre with movies. Their son Russell was in school with this relict. He knew how to operate the projector while his parents went down near the screen and Mrs. Reader played the piano while Bert sang about "The Morning Glories twine around the same old door" as still color pictures were shown on the screen. Son Russell used to let us in in the afternoon after school to see the show. You sat in straight wooden kitchen chairs in a room like an empty store. A ticket cost 5¢ which none of us had. I was never in the movie across the street from the Vaudette and can't recapture the name. The Bijou was on old Congress Street and near the First National Bank. Al Rennie was an early manager of the Opera House and put in a big movie screen and also vaudeville. As late as 1920, movies are listed for the Martha Washington Theatre and in a place with movies and vaudeville - the Wuerth Theatre.

In those old days nearly every house had a barn for a horse and a manure pile from the horse...Several of the old brick barns survive. Back of 160 N. Washington and also one back of Mackraft Shop next door. An interesting one back of 120 N. Adams Street that was probably built by Joseph Kitchen, an early well to do merchant. At 106 S. Huron there is a brick barn on each side of the alley. When Ward Swarts was here, he used to visit about the unusual number of brick barns in Ypsilanti and thought they ought to be catalogued. In the 1890s, Ypsilanti had 15 groceries - 13 on Congress Street between Huron and Adams, 11 saloons, 5 cigar makers, 4 blacksmith shops and 4 milliners. Today there are no cigar makers, cigar makers, blacksmiths or milliners. No meat markets or grocery stores in the downtown except perhaps the Bazley market in the old Dunlap Grocery location.

The tremendous Brooks Market, established not too far by Daniel Brooks in 1937. Expanded and successful, it has been carried on by Dan's two sons, Wilfred and Thomas. Thomas Brooks was brutally murdered on the morning of April 27th as the store opened for business. Wilfred Brooks continues going on with the business.

The last blacksmith in Ypsilanti did not have a shop. He was in the Golde Patent factory on South River Street and his name was Max Heesch. Milliners disappeared about 1930 along with the demise of the Electric Interurban and the Cigar Store Indian.

Wood was the source of heat in those old days. In 1868 there were 2 coal and wood dealers listed and 5 just out and out wood dealers - everybody had a woodshed and out-house. The old baseburner coal stove came in the 1890s and there was one in nearly every living room. In 1901 there were at least 7 coal dealers and no wood dealers. Perhaps you can tell me where I can order a ton of coal today... A \$50 cord of wood, yes, but I don't remember how many sticks in a cord.

O.E.Thompson & Sons sold lots of coal as one of their many business enterprises. The story is told, and I am certain it must have been a competitor who told it - that one day when the Thompsons were scolding one of their drivers for his mistakes. They said: 'John, you are so dumb and stupid.. why you haven't learned one thing since you came to work here six years ago.' John was used to scoldings and said: 'Oh, yes I have. I've learned there is 1400 lbs in a ton of coal.'

And now what type business survives? Not the Groceries, the marvelous Meat Markets which were almost as numerous as Groceries. Nor the Drug Stores, or the Shoe Stores...It is the Saloon in spite of 14 years of Prohibition.

As you can see, I have been fumbling with those forgotten days and forgotten names in the years from the end of the Century and the beginning of the 20th. The Spanish American War in 1898 had little effect on life in general. It generated great Patriotism and songs such as: 'When Uncle Sam Finds Out About the Maine, Ther'll Be War Between Us And Spain.' The horse, the bicycle and the interurban and the railroad took care of transportation - and everybody walked. The Church and the School were the centers of social life. But in September 1914, as we returned to high school, there was talk in the halls of something that had happened in far off Europe and War was beginning, all so far away. World War I began slowly with subtle changes; Woman's Suffrage, Durant had formed General Motors, the Ford Motel T was everywhere, Dodge Brothers began manufacturing of their automobile, a Mexican bandit was a serious menace...then as the War ended, the great change was in evidence: Women openly smoking, Bobbed Hair and invading Barber Shops and Saloons. The popular song stated the problem clearly; "How You Gonna Keep Them Down On The Farm After They've Seen Paree?".

FLORENCE BABBITT AND THE BABBITT HOUSE -

as remembered by Arthur J Howard

I derived a great deal of pleasure in sketching the old Babbitt home which was located at 301 South Huron for the first Ypsilanti Heritage Foundation Engagement Calender. In so doing it brought to mind so many pleasant memories of my early boyhood days in that neighborhood. Our home being a block or so farther south at 426 South Huron.

As I remember, the house was invariably closed up, tight as a drum, most of the time, with the exception of a few times through the summer. All the shades were drawn wooden shutters closed and consequently to us kids the place was shrouded in mystery and in our over imaginative minds the place surly would be haunted.

Periodically however and as I said mostly in the spring and summer Mrs. Babbitt would return from her collecting tours, ride up from the Michigan Central Depot in either one of Ed Dolson's or Mr. Miller's hacks loaded down with bundles and packages to store in the house. News of her arrival soon spread like wild fire throughout the neighborhood. I remember it went something like this: "Old Lady Babbitts back, come on lets go see if the front doors open -"

The open doorway not only brought fresh air into the house it also brought forth a gang of very curious six - seven and eight year olds. We would gather and nonchalantly saunter by, cautiously glancing in almost afraid of what we might see. The open door revealed the front hallway and stair case all piled to capacity with all shapes and sizes of mysterious packages - wrapped in all kinds of paper and tied with a varied assortment of twine.

We never knew, nor could we have ever imagined that the packages contained a priceless collection of early Americana, that would some day be of National interest.

We would usually hang around until Mrs. Babbitt would come out and talk to us a while, ask us our names, etc., then we would disperse. She always wore dark brown or black dresses, very full and reaching to the ground, in the styles of the 1860's.

About the only time we ever set foot in her yard was to pick mulberries from the trees that grew at the rear of the house. Early records state they were planted by Mr. Larzelere for feeding silk worms for a silk industry he visualized but which never materialized.

During the winter snows we spent a good share of our time, after school and Saturdays, sliding down 'Babbitts hill' as we called it. At that time it was 'Race' Street and presently called 'Catherine'. We would slid down past Elmer Brown's dairy barn in the middle of the hill on the south side and on to the bottom ending up in the vicinity of Chidester Street. Mr. Brown kept a small herd of Jerseys which supplied milk for the immediate neighborhood.

Getting back to the Babbitt House, there seems to be some confusion regarding whether or not the house was originally constructed at 301 South Huron or was it first built on River Street and later moved to the Huron Street site. I am inclined to believe that 301 South Huron was the original site for the following reasons:-

First On the back of an old photo of the house, which is now in the Archives files it states that the house was built by Mr. Larzelere and as this section of the City was known as the 'Larzelere Addition' it seems logical he would build his house on land he owned.

Second It is hard to believe back in 1870 that anyone would spend money to move a house that distance and how would they have ever got it across the Congress Street bridge? The bridge was far too narrow and the steel trusses were too low to allow a structure of that dimension to cross. Perhaps someone in our Society will shed more light on this question.

In later years I became better acquainted with Mrs. Babbitt while she occupied a single room on the second floor in the old Hawkins House on Michigan Avenue. At this time we were living on the second floor of our building directly across from the Hotel.

Mrs. Babbitt would have me run errands for her calling me "Boy Howard" - never by my first name. She was interested in the local news and always invited me in to "sit-a-spell" as she would say. In later years she seldom left her room. I remember her sitting in a large rocker completely surrounded by piles of letters and newspapers.

She loved the goodies my mother would prepare and send over to her via special messenger and she was not the least bit bashful about requests.

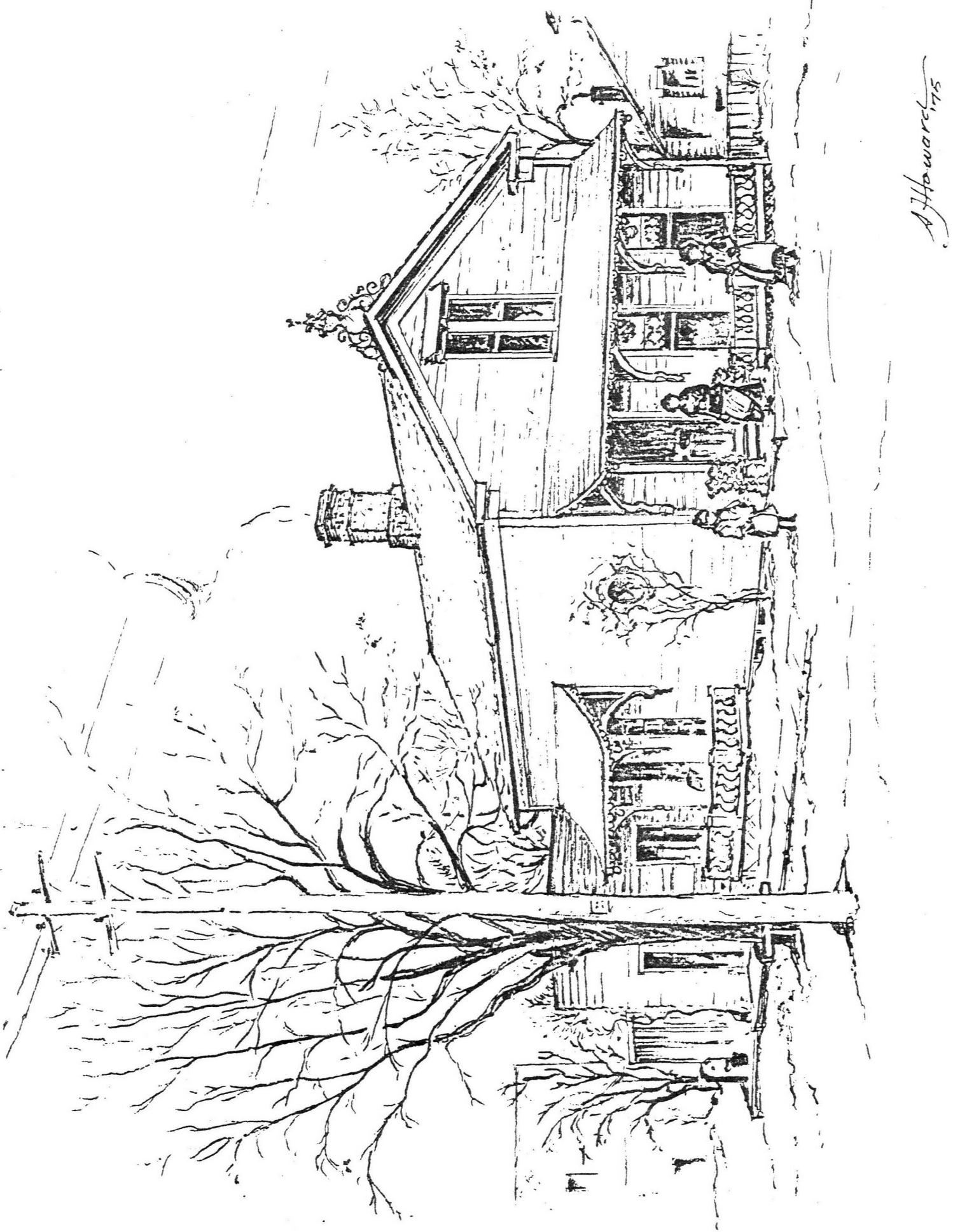
She was especially fond of cameos and always wore them as brooches and in rings as well as cuff links.

The old house was torn down in 1937 to make way for the new home of the Donald Silkworth family. To my knowledge nothing was saved from the house except perhaps the engraved silver nameplate bearing the name of "Babbitt". This memento is now in our City Museum.

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Florence Smalley Babbitt 1847-1929 - Michigan's first professional antique collector.

If you are interesting in knowing more about this very fascinating lady there are brochures on her life available at the Museum.



From time to time we plan to include in THE GLEANINGS
a brief biographical background of our members.

THE HORATIO BLACKMORE LEWIS FAMILY

On February 5, 1905 Horatio Blackmore Lewis died unexpectedly at his home, 217 N. Washington Street, Ypsilanti following a brief illness. H.B. Lewis, son of the Rev. Albert Crittenden Lewis, was born in Dexter, Michigan May 25, 1864. His mother was Helen Blackmore Cooper Lewis.

His father was the rector of the Episcopal Church in Dexter and then also of the church in Howell. In 1867, when Horatio was three years old, his father received a call to Elk Rapids to found St Paul's Episcopal Church there.

Horatio was one of the first graduates of the Elk Rapids High School. His father died about this time, and as the family finances were very limited, he did not go to college. And as there were seven children in the family, there was no money to continue his education. Undaunted, he obtained employment with the Marshall Field Company in Chicago and returning to Elk Rapids in 1882 became cashier in a local store. He had an excellent bookkeeping background and was very adept with figures. Soon he was hired by the Elk Rapids Iron Company as bookkeeper, and eventually became Vice President and General Manager.

Elk Rapids was settled in 1852 around a sawmill which had its power from the Torch River. The timber resources of the area made it natural for a charcoal pig iron furnace and chemical plant to locate there. The company he was with did very well with iron, lumber and flour.

Elk Rapids is on the East Arm of Grand Traverse Bay eighteen miles north of Traverse City.

His managerial ability as well as his knowledge of lumber was recognized by several companies, and on June 27th, 1903 he became Vice President and General Manager of the Cuba Products Company which was organized to lumber and export a vast area of timber in the San Diego Providence of Cuba.

The newly formed Company located a station in that Province and named it 'Lewiston' in honor of the manager.

Harriet Adelaide Cloyes of Farmington, Michigan came with her mother to Ypsilanti and lived on Summit Street while attending the Michigan State Normal College.

She graduated from the two-year teacher's course in 1887 and took a teaching position in the Elk Rapids public schools, met Mr. Lewis, and they were married August 19th, 1889.

From that union came six children, two boys and 4 girls. Evangeline, born October 15, 1892, was the second born of the six children.

It was about 1903 that the Horatio B. Lewis family moved to Ypsilanti and lived at 217 N. Washington. This move was made to take advantage of the educational facilities in Ypsilanti.

During the six months that Mr. Lewis was in Cuba, his wife left the four older youngsters with her mother in Ypsilanti, and went to Cuba with the other two to be with her husband. But Mr. Lewis found the climate and living conditions for his family intolerable, and resigned after six months to become affiliated with the William H. White Lumber interests in Boyne City, Michigan. He had decided to move his family to Grand Rapids, Michigan, where the White Lumber had their main office when he came home with a hard cold which really was pneumonia, and he died within a week, February 4, 1905.

After the death of her husband, Mrs. Lewis decided to remain in Ypsilanti for the educational benefit of the children.

In July 1905, she bought the property at 415 N. Huron Street which had been the home of Albert R. Graves a successful grocer in Ypsilanti.

She maintained and lived in this home until the time of her death in 1958 at the age of ninety. Evangeline, the surviving daughter, became sole owner of the property and called it the 'Lewis House'. It occupies a double lot between N. Huron Street and N. Washington and bounded by a line on the north, an aborted extention of Florence Street.

Thinking the unusual lovely historic Italinate house could be fitted into a program at Eastern Michigan University, the Alma Mater of Miss Lewis, she placed the property under the management of that institution for a year or two. Events prevented satisfaction to either party and on August 19th, 1976, her mother's wedding anniversary, she gave the property to the Ypsilanti Historical Society, retaining the priviledge of living in the home with the beautiful family antiques.

MORE ABOUT MEMBERS OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE --

by Doris Milliman
Museum Director

Eileen Harrison may well be called 'Miss Ypsilanti' because of her vast knowledge of our City's History. She is retired after forty-one years with 'The Ypsilanti Press' where she was a news reporter. She is a past President of the Historical Society and has worked hundreds of hours at the Museum, even before it was moved into its present quarters. Eileen is an avid worker and guests who visit the Museum on the Sunday she works are fortunate to have her as a guide.

Eileen is also a member of the Administrative Committee where she is in charge of the sales counter as well as the project on Oral History of the area. Due to her work on the latter project the Archives Department has several tapes of recollections of some of our older citizens. The Museum, the Historical Society and the Community are truly indebted to Eileen Harrison for all of her knowledge, labor and enthusiasm.

Ann McCarthy(Mrs. William) while not one of the original members of the Administrative Committee has proven to be invaluable in arranging for Special Events at the Museum. She also does the publicity for these programs. She has a program planned for the entire year and we hope the community will attend these interesting events. Ann is also a member of the Museum's Board of Directors, serving her first term. She has shown a great interest in the affairs and takes an active part in discussions. She is a mother, a housewife, an active member in other organizations in our City and is now assisting the director two days a week at the Museum. Presently she is working on the project of copying family records from the old Bibles which we own. We feel fortunate to have Ann's enthusiasm and her interest in the Museum.

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NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM ---

Our volunteers are a loyal group and we have new ones added to the number who seem to enjoy being guides each weekend. Our visitors, while not huge in number, keep our guides busy. During November the members of the Society heard a talk by Mrs. Ethel Royce of Ann Arbor who showed her button collection which was started in 1941.

Groups who have visited the Museum during the month include members from The Rotary Club, a Cub Scout Troop and the A.A.U.W. Other Cub Scout Troops are planning trips later. The Special Event during the month was a discussion of 'brass rubbings' which have been done by Mrs. Hoover Jordan. This talk proved to be most interesting and we are grateful to the speaker for it. Mrs. Jordan has also shared her beautiful collection of "salts" which have been on display for the past month.

The Museum will soon be decorated for Christmas and we hope many people will visit during the season - particularly for our Christmas Party on December seventeenth. The Administrative Committee is in charge of decorating. Arthur J Howard will supply the tree, as for past Christmas parties, and the Garden Club is busy making decorations for it.

Some of our members and friends are loaning the Museum special exhibits of their collections to make our Museum even more beautiful and attractive for the Christmas season. If you have a special collection, or know of someone who does, why not have these lovely things on display at the Museum so that many can view them rather than just a few.
Mornings-482-4990.

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NEWS RELEASE -

"TERMINAL, STATION AND DEPOT will be on view at Eastern Michigan University Library from November 27th to December 21st. This exhibition was prepared by the Historic American Buildings Survey and is being circulated by the Smithsonian Institution Traveling Exhibition Service. Terminal, Station and Depot is an exhibition that spans one hundred years of America's railroad stations, from the first station built in Baltimore in 1830 to those constructed in the 1920s. The exhibition focuses not only on the railroad station as a unique architectural structure but also on the need to preserve and use these historic buildings".

Miss Nina Wilson

FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH OF
YPSILANTI a history of the church
written by Nina Wilson in honor
of the church's 150th anniversary

Mrs. Robert Carr

Box of baby clothes belonging to
Mr. & Mrs. Marvin Carr

Mr. & Mrs. Alan Stewart

Copies of letters written from
the East to England prior to the
Revolutionary War.

Ted Weber

Antique brass tobacco humidor.

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WE HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THESE MEETINGS!

JANUARY 21st - ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING OF THE YPSILANTI
HISTORICAL SOCIETY - 3 until 5 at Museum

FEBRUARY 18th - Mrs. Ruth Reynolds will talk at this General
Meeting on VICTORIAN COSTUMING THROUGHOUT
THE DAY - using clothes here at the Museum
for demonstration purposes.

SPECIAL EVENTS

FEBRUARY 11th - Diane Anderson will hold a VALENTINE
MAKING PARTY - especially for children!

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JUST A REMINDER -

For those of us who have forgotten to send in our 1978
dues. Just slip the dues into an envelope and send it to
either the Museum (220 N. Huron) or to our Treasurer- Mr.
Fred Peters, 1206 Westmoorland, Ypsilanti. THANK YOU!

The 1979 dues will be accepted at the Annual Meeting - or
before!

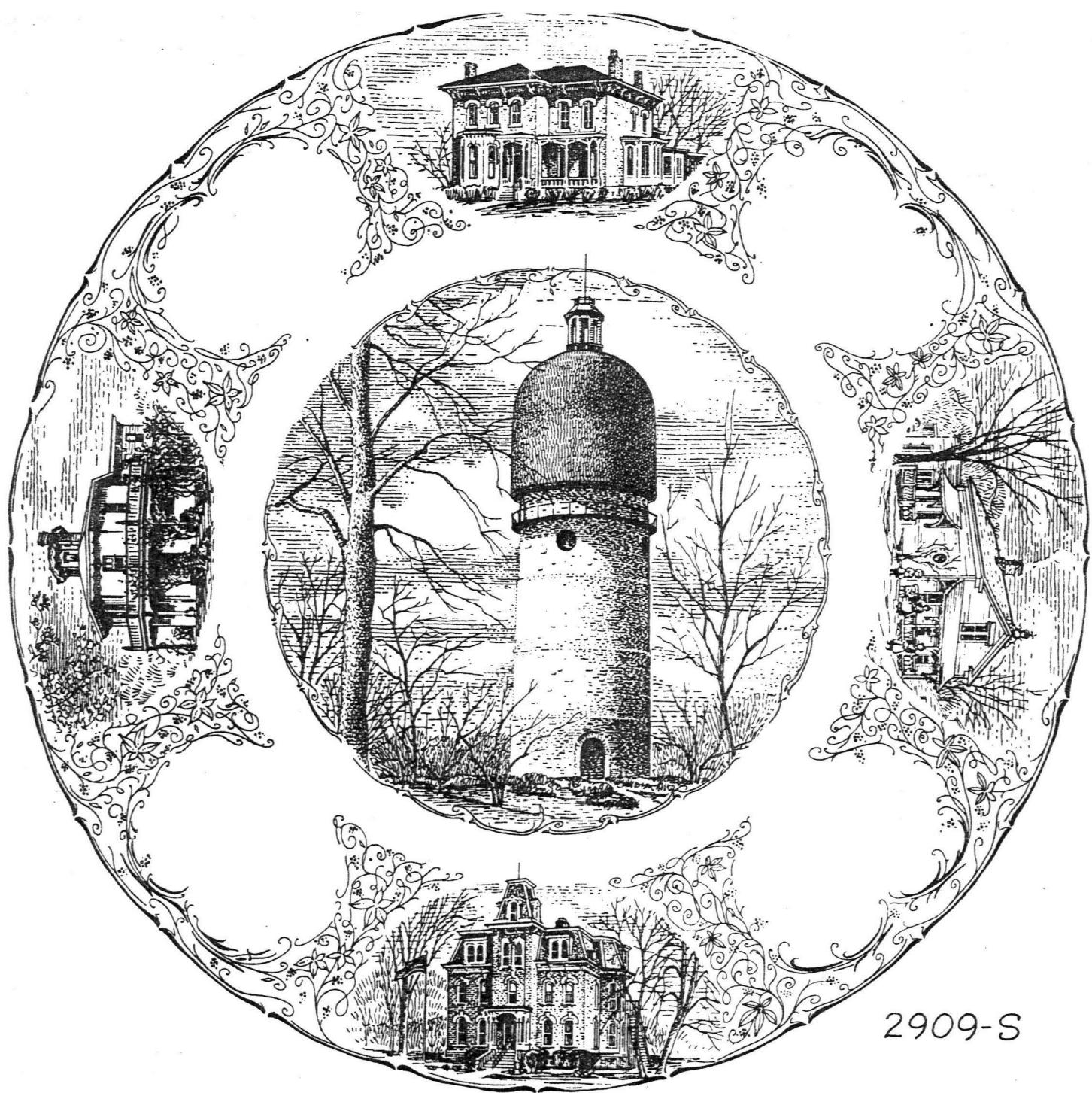
If you have any questions concerning dues payments call
482-4990 (mornings) or 482-8518.

A CORDIAL WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

DODD, Thomas, Mr. & Mrs. 46-50 E.Cross	MASSEY, Michael, Mr. & Mrs. 290 Clark #6 Saline
FINK, Robert, Mr. & Mrs. 119 S. Washington	MILLER, Gordon 1737 W. 95th Place Chicago, Ill.
GESCHE, Paul R. 731 W. Cross	McKINNON, Lawrence, Mr. & Mrs. 313 Maple Street
GOODMAN, George, Mr. & Mrs. 1610 Gregory	PAVOLICH, Joseph, Jr. 415 Olive Street
HAMMOND, Harry B., Mrs. 1408 W. Cross	STEEL, Matthew C., Mr. & Mrs. 2330 Ellsworth #304

RECENT ACQUISITIONS

Jim Westfall	Abstract from the house at 137 N. Washington.
Mrs. Alex Fox	Two wedding dresses, one 1917, one 1940 period, child's petticoat, two dresses from 1928 period.
Mrs. Jessie Mangas (Cleary estate)	Plaster bust of P.R.Cleary-made in 1948- material from W.W. II & box of material from Cleary College.
Mrs. Paul Bouckaert	white enamel tea kettle-1920
Miss Marian Rouse Chelsea	Assortment of old newspapers and clippins from the Ypsilanti home of her great-grandfather, W.B.Clarke-108 N.Huron
Miss Evaneline Lewis	Snapshots of the house at 415 N.Huron (the 'Lewis House'.)
Foster Fletcher	Weiman-Matthews store cashbook for 1903-advertising cards, engineer's metal measuring tool.



2909-S

Historic Plates Available

At The

Ypsilanti Historical Museum

220 N. Huron — Phone 482-4990

Hours: 2:00 P.M. to 4:00 P.M. Friday, Saturday, Sunday
or by Appointment

— *Plate design by Arthur J Howard*

Priced at \$4. these plates make nice gifts as a remembrance or for
Christmas or Birthdays.